



Earth First! News

ON THE FRONTLINES OF ECOLOGICAL RESISTANCE

AUSTRALIA'S LEARD BLOCKADE HALTS COAL IN ITS TRACKS

by Onion

If you've been a regular reader of the *Earth First!* Newswire for the first few months of 2016 you might have noticed Front Line Action on Coal's (FLAC) #LeardBlockade popping up in the feed often enough to think that we may be accidentally reposting the same article over and over. This isn't the case; the Leard Forest Alliance, which is made up of FLAC and 17 other groups, has been using direct action on what seems like a daily basis to resist the expansion of a coal mine in New South Wales' Leard State Forest. They are the first coal mine blockade camp in Australia's history, but these folks are no amateurs.

Inside Leard State Forest are over 8,400 acres of nationally-listed and critically endangered Box-Gum Woodland, which houses over 25 hollows per acre—hollows that take over a century to form and are roosting ground for Corben's long-eared bat and the yellow-bellied sheath-tailed bat. Also in the forest are 396 species of plants and animals along with habitat for 34 threatened species and several endangered ecological communities. Together, Boggabri, Maules Creek, and Tarrawonga coal mines would destroy much of the forest, including almost 3,000 acres of the Box-Gum Woodland.

Front Line Action on Coal began their camp on August 5, 2012, inside the forest but has since been forced to

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NEWS FROM THE ECO-WARS

Mid Dec—Canada: Activists Begin Occupation of Dam Construction Site

Folks began an occupation where BC Hydro plans to clearcut parts of the Peace River Valley and flood 57,000 acres of farmland in order to construct an \$8.3-billion hydroelectric dam. On December 30, three people were arrested for blocking the road leading into the site. On April 1, 2016, a member of the protest camp concluded a 19-day hunger strike.

Dec 24—Italy: Windows of Hunter's Car Smashed

Folks broke the glass of a hunter's SUV in "solidarity and complicity with our Italian comrades for the recent [Dec 10] liberations of minks and hares."

Late Dec—Argentina: Liberation of Rabbits and Sabotage at University

Twenty-seven rabbits were freed from the experimental farm inside of the National University of La Plata, where goats and pigs are also tested on. Before leaving, they destroyed everything they

could, including testing data. Their statement ended with "Until animal exploiters are hung by their own guts!"

Jan 3—Enbridge Valve and Pipeline Sabotaged in MA

Activists used a manual pipeline valve at a Cambridge pump station to restrict the flow of the Line 7 pipeline and then applied locking devices to delay response time. Pipelines were manually shut down four times from December to January in both the USA and Canada.

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Jan 12—Direct Action in Defense of Historic Farmland in CA

The Gill Tract was sold to the University of California in 1928 under the condition that it be used for agricultural research but is being threatened with the construction of a high-end senior assisted living facility, a Sprouts supermarket, and a parking lot. Activists pulled up stakes, conducted interviews, and began a Sprouts boycott protest. Sixteen days later, two activists locked down to a tractor to prevent paving and were arrested.

Jan 14—Lebanon: Protesters Occupy Ministry of Environment

Around ten protesters stormed the Azarieh building in downtown Beirut to demand solutions to the country's trash crisis that began in July of 2015. Riot police locked the entrance, arrested people, and attacked a news correspondent while attempting to take his microphone during a live broadcast. Two protesters held a large banner calling for recycling trash and rejecting the establishment of landfills while others flung rotten eggs "for the rotten government."

Jan 14—Italy: Two Repeaters Sabotaged in Solidarity with ELF Defendants

Two electronic devices that receive and re-transmit signals over long distances were destroyed. A statement was made: "Let's stop electronic control and electromagnetic pollution. For Silvia, Costa and Billy, still on trial." *[See "From the Cages," page 7, for more information on their case.]*

Jan 14—Australia: Treesit Halts Logging

Conservationists positioned a person on a tree platform nearly 100 feet above the ground with ropes anchored to logging machinery. The endangered long-footed potoroo and critically endangered East Gippsland galaxias fish have been spotted in this forest. Folks promised "protests and threatened species surveys will continue until Kuark Forest receives the protection it deserves."

Jan 16—Hundreds Visit Skanska CEO's Home in NY

Richard Cavallaro's Huntington home was swarmed by activists aiming to expose to his neighbors the fact that he profits from animal torture. It was organized by No New Animal Lab with support from the NYC Animal Defense League as part of an ongoing pressure campaign to get Skanska to cancel their contract to build an underground animal testing lab at the University of Washington.

Jan 17—Canada: Westridge Drilling Barge Seized and Shut Down

Work crews undertaking offshore geo-technical operations on the Burrard Inlet were stopped as part of the fight to halt pipeline construction. The activists' statement read, "This action is in solidarity with all indigenous nations displaced by the tar sands, along the current and proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline routes, and in solidarity with the Secwepemc Nation and Secwepemc Woman Warrior Society. Kinder Morgan plans on expanding north through Wet'suwet'en Territory, the same nation that Unist'ot'en Camp is a part of."

Jan 18—Argentina: Birds Liberated, Cages Destroyed

The translated statement read: "A common practice of speciesists is to imprison animals as decoration, or as a reminder of their caging logic; that's how we saw two birds in a suburban home in Buenos Aires, and we did not doubt in liberating them, and breaking their cages."

Jan 18—Australia: Lockdown Against Coal Wells

Three women from Knitting Nannas Against Gas locked their necks to the gates of a wastewater treatment plant in New South Wales where 850 coal seam gas wells are proposed to be built. Joined by some 60 other activists, the Nannas were charged with obstructing traffic and failure to comply with police direction.

Jan 18—NY Traffic Blockade in Solidarity with Porter Ranch

Seven members of the group We Are Seneca Lake blocked all traffic entering and leaving the Crestwood gas storage facility while delivering a statement of solidarity with folks affected by a massive leak from an underground gas storage facility in CA. Part of their statement read, "Like your depleted oil field, our salt caverns were never engineered to hold natural gas either."

Jan 19—Philippines: Highway Blockade in Protest of Nickel Mine

Residents of Barangay Bayto and other barangays blockaded a national highway for three days, preventing haulers of Zambales Diversified Metals Corporation from leaving the nickel quarry site. Residents have blamed the mining firms for the gush of mud in their villages.



Jan 22—Finland: Nuclear Plant Construction Halted

Members of the anti-nuke protest camp blocked morning traffic leading into the Fennovoima-Rosatom construction site by standing in front of vehicles and climbing onto them. The Hanhikivi Peninsula ecosystem is being destroyed by construction preparation even though no building permits have been granted.

Jan 21—Germany: Forest Defenders Run Over by Security Guards

Activists fighting against the existence of a giant lignite coal mine were hit by a car owned by security forces. Two activists were kidnapped; one was successfully de-arrested, but the other, Fledermaus, was beaten, accused of assault, and imprisoned for four weeks.

Around Jan 22—Italy: High-Speed Rail Construction Equipment Sabotaged

Two bulldozers constructing the controversial project (TAV) were sabotaged in Genoa: one by fire and the other by sand. The saboteurs declared: “May sabotage continue to be the daily practice of every sincere lover of the Earth—everything else is boring.” People have been fighting the TAV, which would be used mainly for goods and not human transportation, since the early '90s, employing a diversity of tactics.

Jan 24—Chile: Arson of Andrés Bello University in Santiago

Circle of Individualists for Anarchy and the Kapibara Group cells of the Informal Anarchist Federation/International Revolutionary Front (FAI/IRF) claimed responsibility for an arson that completely destroyed the science department of the university. The attacks were committed in solidarity with anarchist prisoners Marius Mason and Natalia “Tato” Collado “against patriarchal civilization and its techno-industrial fabric [translation].”

Jan 24-31—France: Arson and Sabotage of Over 20 Vehicles

New cars at a Renault dealership in Avion were set ablaze. A week later a service vehicle of the conservative newspaper *L'Est Républicain* had its tires slashed.

Jan 24—Chile: Direct Action in Defense of Mapuche Territory

The Pehuenche Lientur Organs of Territorial Resistance sabotaged the Angostura Central Hydroelectric Dam's kitchen installations, as well as logging machinery in the Santa Elvira estate. Part of their statement read, “This action will be carried out once more on other installations of the same characteristics in the region... Oust the forestry companies, hydroelectric dams & all capitalist investment in Mapuch territory.”

Feb 1—Chile: Banner Dropped and Road Blockaded

The banner declared solidarity with Claudio Paredes, an 18-year-old militant who died in an explosion in 1988 while preparing an explosive device to be used against the dictator Pinochet. A statement online read, “Fire to the projects that destroy nature!” and also criticized the TPP, jails, and identity control.



Jan 25—Canada: Once Again, Pipelines Tampered With and Shut Off

Folks in traditional Haudenosaunee Territory used an electronic valve to shut off the flow of tar sands crude in Line 9. A Line 7 valve was also tampered with and closed part-way. From the anonymous statement: “Our actions hurt none, but a lack of action hurts everyone. May we all find the courage to actively resist & destroy exploitative capitalist industrial projects.”

Jan 28—VT Residents, Climate Advocates Prevent Eminent Domain Proceedings for Pipeline

A land appraisal by the Department of Public Service and Vermont Gas Systems, intending to facilitate the construction of a proposed fracked gas pipeline, was prevented as opponents formed a human chain across the edge of the property. This was the second time in less than a month that opponents of the pipeline shut down eminent domain proceedings.

Early Feb—One Hundred Hens Liberated

The hens were freed from horrendous conditions at an unknown site, but now, according to the liberators' statement, “Their feet touch grass and they can see the sunshine.”

Feb 1—Balloon Banner Released in CT

The banner was released at a Bridgeport City Council public hearing where

teachers, residents, and members of Capitalism vs. the Climate converged with comments opposing the construction of a new fracked gas power plant. It read, “Fracked gas is environmental racism! No coal, no gas!”

Feb 2—Argentina: “Fire to Monsanto and Its Supporters!”

A branch of Banco Provincia in Buenos Aires was “redecorated” with paint bulbs, and leaflets discussing the installation of a new Monsanto plant and a lockdown against it several years ago were spread around.

Feb 9—Chile: Acts of Sabotage Against Forestry Companies

The Williche Kalfulikan Organization of Territorial Resistance claimed several acts of sabotage (it appears that trucks were set on fire) against forestry equipment in Lanco and Lumaco. Their statement read, in part: “Ours is a direct struggle against all expressions of capital in ancient Mapuche Territory.”

Feb 9—VT Pipeline Hearing Shut Down with “Joyous Bedlam”

In protest against plans to construct a new fracked gas pipeline, dozens of community members shut down an eminent domain hearing by flooding the room with people and singing consecutive duets while other people hummed until the gas lawyers left in frustration and the meeting was quickly adjourned.

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Feb 8—Construction Halted Again at Gill Tract in CA

Five activists with *Occupy the Farm* blockaded the construction site of a proposed high-end senior assisted living center and Sprouts grocery store by sitting in the path of construction equipment removing topsoil. *Occupy the Farm* activists had previously removed survey stakes from the site and disrupted the first week of construction. They plan to appropriate the land in order to provide community members with affordable food.

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Feb 13—Mexico: Street Blockade of Construction Site

San Pedro residents blockaded the street and entrance to the construction site of apartment towers to be built on the Cerro de Loma Larga mountain. They released a statement that said, in part, "...We gather here together against those that threaten what little green space we have left which protect our families and are for future generations."

Feb 14—Germany: Nine Cars Burnt in Mulheim

Wildfire Cell ALF/ELF/FAI placed homemade incendiary devices near the tires of the vehicles. They stated that "...all cars are equally disgusting and toxic machines of the techno-industrial system, so we burn them indiscriminately, choosing not to limit ourselves to targeting some abstract definition of 'luxury' cars" and that "this attack was an act of vengeance for all the non-human comrades crushed on the roads of human 'progress' ... Onward with the violent rejection of civilization and its values."

Feb 14—Prague: Police Vehicles Sabotaged

The Network of Revolutionary Cells'

one protester was injured in clashes with riot police.

Feb 18—Spain: "Against Civilization, Its Pipelines, Dams, Roads, and Destruction"

Anti-civilization fliers were distributed and posted. An online statement read, in part: "Let there be no surprise at the violent counter-strike against those who have destroyed space and time for over five centuries... Attack, burn, conspire. Defend the Earth *a golpes*."

Feb 20—Rally and March Against Dominion Power at VA Capitol

Over 700 people marched and rallied outside the Virginia Capitol building against Dominion Power's plans to both release water contaminated with coal-ash into the James River and build the Atlantic Coast Pipeline across western Virginia to transport natural gas. Eight were arrested for trespassing on the Capitol steps.

Feb 24—Belgium: Activists Block TTIP Meeting

Thirty Greenpeace activists from seven countries locked themselves to the entrances of a conference center in Brussels where US and EU negotiators were to hold secret talks about the trade deal, which seriously threatens environmental standards.

Feb 27—UK: Thousands March Against Nuclear Weapons

Activists from around the world gathered in central London to protest nuclear weapons, especially the UK's nuclear program Trident in what was called "Britain's biggest anti-nuclear march in a generation," referring to a 1983 march that drew 300,000 protesters.

Feb 28—Pheasants Liberated in OR

Fifty animals were released from the Estacada Game Farm "in an act of love" dedicated to the memory of anti-fascist vegan Clément Méric, murdered by neo-Nazis in Paris in 2013.

Feb 29—Pipeline Drilling Halted in NY

Activists stood with arms locked together to prevent horizontal drilling under the Hudson River for Spectra's AIM pipeline, set to run dangerously close to the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant. Eleven protesters were arrested.

Mar 7—Germany: New Anti-Lignite Forest Occupation in Lusatia

Known as LAUtonomia, this occupation near the village of Rhone began with three platforms placed in old oak trees between the edge of the forest and the open-pit mine. Squatters of the forest held a Forest Party on March 13 to get the public involved in the resistance.



Mar 2—Chile: Forestry Trucks Torched

An unknown group blocked a caravan of trucks involved in destroying the Arauco forests, forced the drivers out, and set fire to six of the vehicles. Afterwards, another road was blocked with logs from a recent cut. No one was arrested, but someone was reportedly shot and injured for refusing to exit their vehicle. This arson and road blockade correspond with a new wave of resistance against forestry companies invested in the region.

Mar 3—Honduras: Indigenous Activist Berta Cáceres Murdered

After years of death threats, Berta Cáceres, the coordinator and co-founder of the Council of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras, was shot and killed by unknown assailants inside her home in La Esperanza. Cáceres was also the leader of the Lenca indigenous community and recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2015 for a grassroots campaign that pressured the world's largest dam builder to pull out of the Agua Zarca Dam project. According to Global Witness, twelve environmental defenders were killed in Honduras in 2014, making it the most dangerous country in the world—relative to its size—for activists protecting forests and rivers.

Mar 6—Peru: Tribe Takes Government Officials Hostage Over Oil Spill

The Wampis indigenous community

of Mayuriaga in the Amazon grounded a military helicopter, holding crew members and government officials hostage. The tribe demanded help from the central government over the rupture of a pipeline owned by Petroperu, which spilled 1,000 barrels of oil in Mayuriaga. This spill came nine days after a leak in the same duct spilled 2,000 barrels near eight other indigenous communities in the region.

Mar 6—UK: Coal Rail Transport Line Sabotaged

Anonymous folks calling themselves "Sand in the Gears" entered two railway tunnels in Avon Gorge, cut the lines with a portable disc cutter, and left a banner as a warning. The rail line travels from Royal Portbury Dock, which handles 70 percent of the UK's imported coal for power generation.

Mar 7—Canada: Protesters Disrupt Pipeline Hearing

Quebec's environmental hearings for the Energy East pipeline project were temporarily suspended as protesters sneaked into the audience room, unfurled a banner denouncing the pipeline, and sang songs to silence Louis Bergeron, vice president of Energy East for New Brunswick and Quebec, as he tried to give a presentation.

Mar 7—Italy: Lambs Saved from Easter Slaughter

The Animal Liberation Front liberated 49 lambs destined for religious slaughter and delivered them to caring

homes. They also burnt folders, stole documents, destroyed computers, and damaged barns on the property.

Mar 8—Brazil: Over 5,000 Women Destroy Monoculture Seedlings

Women workers from the Landless Movement destroyed eucalyptus and pine seedlings owned by the corporation Araupel to denounce the destructive model of agribusiness, its damage to the environment, and Araupel's illegal land theft. The women demand the expropriation of an approximately 86-acre farm and that the roughly 10,000 families camped in Paraná be given permanent settlements in the state. This action was done as part of National Day of Women Struggles.

Mar 12—Chile: Bomb Set Off Against Highway Construction Company

The Anarchist Cell of Individualists and Nihilists for the Anti-Authoritarian Insurrection—FAI/FRI detonated a noise bomb outside of a Vespucio Sur office. They wrote: "We do not conceive of the struggle against civilization as something different or external from the fight against all forms of authority. We identify administrative corporations that build highways as an important strand in the web which gives life to the network of domination, facilitating the advance of civilization, enriching themselves with the imposition of urban servility to those in power [translation]."

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Fighting the Constitution Pipeline

The proposed 124-mile Constitution Pipeline would carry natural gas from Pennsylvania to New York and parts of New England. The companies financing this project have used eminent domain to seize a huge right-of-way, including five acres of the maple sugar tree farm the Holleran family has owned since the 1950s. Despite months of resistance by the Hollerans and over 100 activists who joined them there, the trees were eventually cut. Recently, Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York rejected the Constitution Pipeline, citing the massive tree cutting as influencing his decision.

Jan 20—State Task Force Meeting Shut Down

Over 20 residents of regions impacted by shale drilling interrupted the public comments section of a Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force meeting, resulting in seven arrests. The intention of the Task Force was to "streamline" the process of obtaining permits for more pipelines.

Feb 10—Trees Defended

Dozens of people held hands on the Holleran's maple farm to stop the clearcutting of five acres of trees in the proposed path of the Constitution Pipeline. The action stopped work for the day.

Feb 19—Charges Against Tree Defenders Dropped

Charges were dismissed for five activists who had obstructed tree cutting on the farm. The judge ruled in their favor but clarified that in the future he would direct marshals to arrest people interfering with cutting and that the landowners have a "duty" to remove others who may come to their land to block cutting.

March 1—Trees Cut as Farmers Lose Eminent Domain Battle

The eminent domain ruling allowing Constitution Pipeline workers to cut trees on the Holleran family's farm was expanded by a 150-foot "safety buffer" to be maintained on both sides of cutting. The entire area was guarded by armed US marshals as protesters and family watched cutting begin.

Mar 24—Holleran Family Shames Commissioners With Last of Their Maple Syrup

Activists and members of the Holleran family cooked pancakes on a grill outside FERC headquarters to offer commissioners the chance to meet them face-to-face and try their last maple syrup crop of the season. When commissioners declined, people linked arms and blocked the entrance to the FERC garage with their bodies, resulting in multiple arrests.



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Mar 15—Honduras: Indigenous Activist Nelson García Murdered

García—a father of five, community leader, and member of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras—was shot four times in the face in his own home only days after Cáceres' funeral, and shortly after the Honduran government dispatched riot police and bulldozers to evict 150 indigenous people from their homes in Rio Chiquito, where they had occupied ancestral land for two years in protest of the Agua Zerca megadam project. García's and Cáceres' group was instrumental in preventing the construction of the megadam.

Mar 15—Finland: Anti-Nuke Protesters Pie Police and Guards

The Pyhäjoki protest camp participated in the International Day Against Police Brutality with a banner drop and by serving two private Fennovoima-Rosatom security guards and a police officer with cream pies to the face. In Finland, cream-pieing high profile figures is a tactic used to put serious topics into the public eye.

Mar 22—South Africa: Mine Opponent Sikhosiphi Rhadebe Assassinated

Rhadebe was shot eight times outside of his house by two men pretending to be police. Chairman of the Amadiba Crisis Committee, Rhadebe opposed a mining company's plans to mine titanium in the Xolobeni area, saying that the mine would mean removal of the people from the land and the destruction of their livelihoods. An hour and a half before his murder, Rhadebe called another Crisis Committee member to check on her safety, and spoke of a hit list the two of them were on—with his name at the top. Rhadebe died defending his young son, who witnessed the murder.

Mar 22—Finland: Anti-Nuclear Activists Occupy Energy Office

Activists and residents of the Pyhäjoki protest camp occupied the Oulu Energia office, activated loud personal safety alarms, and dropped banners from the roof in protest of the company's support of the Fennovoima-Rosatom nuclear power project and of the city of Oulu's 17 million Euro investment into the company. Banners read, "Leave the Fennovoima-Rosatom Nuclear Power Project" and "Oulu's Money for the People, Not for Nuclear."

Late March—Peru: Residents Strike Against Mining Company

One hundred and fifty people from forty-seven rural communities and towns held a 48-hour strike against MMG Limited. They asked to meet with company and government officials to demand closure of the mine and to denounce the militarization of the area. Citizens occupied the streets of Chalhuahuacho throughout the strike.

Mar 30—Treesit in PA in Protest of Pipeline

Two treesits were set up on opposite sides of a family's property in Huntingdon County, where Sunoco Logistics seized land and began clearcutting trees to make room for the Mariner East 2 pipelines. The family is challenging Sunoco's claims to eminent domain.

March 31—Colombia: Anti-Mining Occupation in Ninth Month of Resistance

People in Tasco have been camping near the Acerías Paz del Río steel mill to monitor the mining operation there for nine months straight. They say the water and environment have already been severely damaged and they will not allow the operation to continue. 

**Check out the Earth First! Newswire for daily updates from the Eco-Wars:
EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG/NEWSWIRE**

Mar 7—VA Students Stage Sit-in Over Dominion Energy Permit



Students entered the Department of Environmental Quality headquarters in Richmond and refused to leave. They demanded a repeal of permits allowing Dominion to dump coal ash and an investigation into the 2015 dumping of untreated wastewater into Quantico Creek. Seventeen students were charged with trespassing and released.

Mar 22—Treesit Launched in VT to Stop Pipeline

A climate activist with Rising Tide Vermont suspended themselves 30 feet above the ground in a tree, preventing it from being cut and blocking the right of way for construction of the Vermont Gas fracked gas pipeline.



Mar 23—Hundreds Disrupt Oil Lease Auction in New Orleans



Residents and concerned organizers filled the room where the lease sale was happening chanting "shut it down." Forty-three million acres are being threatened by the lease.

This issue of *Earth First! News* was compiled by Cicada, Rock Dove, Onion, Rabbit, Wood Rat and the *Earth First! Newswire* crew. Available for free at: EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG/MERCH

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SOLIDARITY WITH THE ZAD NORTE-DAME-DES-LANDES

For years, the fight to protect forest and farmland from the construction of the Notre-Dame-des-Landes airport near Nantes, France, has included protests, riots, sabotage, and the massive autonomous zone known as the ZAD (zone à défendre). Lately, the threat of eviction of the ZAD has escalated, and the beginning of 2016 saw a response of solidarity from activists around the world, including attacks on Vinci, the company behind the construction of the airport.

Jan 9—Nantes, France: 20,000 People Blockade Bridge

The marchers were joined by 1,000 cyclists and 400 tractors to protest the airport and support the ZAD. The protest blockaded the Cheviré bridge into the night and farmers announced the blockade would continue until Presidente Hollande negotiated. The blockade eventually disbanded following negotiations with police. Police used tear gas and water cannons against protesters after the withdrawal had been agreed upon.

Jan 9—Toulouse, France: Airport Road and Trams Met with Flaming Barricades

The road to Toulouse airport and the airport tram were blocked with barricades of fire, closing two tram lines for an hour. The blockaders cited state violence faced by tenants, squatters, Roma, and immigrants in the ZAD as reasons behind the action and vowed that, “As long as these evictions continue, as long as this shit world exists, we will remain determined to attack the incessant flow of merchandise, passengers and workers ... despite the state of emergency.”

Jan 9—Lille, France: Spontaneous March

In solidarity with the blockade of the Cheviré bridge and the ZAD inhabitants who were to face trial on January 13, over 100 people marched onto a motorway and unfurled a banner that read “Against the Ayrault-port of Norte Dame Des Landes. Vinci, Out of Our Lives [translation].”



January 13, 2016

Jan 13—Nantes, France: Thousand Strong Protests Over Farmer Evictions

Over 1,000 protesters surrounded the entrance to the court in Nantes where the hearing began that could evict 11 families living in the ZAD.

Jan 13—Nantes, France: Police Station Painted

A group calling themselves The Greens of Rage painted “ZAD” in giant letters on a police station in the neighborhood of Beaujoire as families were tried in court. Their claim of responsibility ended with: “Far from hushed court speeches, the police militia will come back to the zone, to attack the occupation movement and the life forms that develop for years. This is a warning. We won’t let them do so. There won’t be an airport in Notre-Dame-des-Landes [translation].”

Jan 15—Cali, Colombia: Solidarity Graffiti

Anarchists spray-painted slogans on the Cali’s Univalle (University of the Valley) campus in solidarity with the ZAD, including “Univalle in Solidarity with the ZAD!” and “Destruction of all forms of power! [translation].”

Jan 22—Rennes, France: Road Blockade

The road passing through the construction site for the new Eurorennes train station and in front of the entrance to a women’s prison was blockaded with overturned bins and spilled oil in resistance to the construction of a high-speed light rail and the prison, and in solidarity with the ZAD.

Jan 18-24—Helsinki, Finland: ZAD Solidarity Graffiti

Numerous bus stops on busy streets were spray-painted with “ZAD” and messages of solidarity.

Feb 8 & 12—Sainte-Colombe-en-Bruilhois, France: Vinci Equipment Sabotaged

On February 8, a dozen Zadists took over a Vinci construction site and blocked any movement of machinery, forcing work to stop for the day. After they left, two excavators were found spray-painted, windows broken, and tanks siphoned. On February 12, about a dozen Zadists occupied the area, stopping work again.

Feb 25—Nantes, France: Riot, Resistance Against State of Emergency

Nearly 400 people marched in resistance to the state of emergency and called for solidarity with Kobane in Kurdistan, Ferguson in the US, and Notre-Dame-des-Landes in France. Despite hundreds of police using force and tear gas to hold them back, masked demonstrators used fire extinguishers, paint, and egg bombs to redesign the facades of banks, estate agencies, the Socialist Party office, and other public buildings.

Feb 27—Toulouse, France: Incendiary Attack Against Vinci Trucks

From the communiqué [translation]: “We set fire to several trucks on a Vinci construction site. We wanted to kick start a fire. To have fun together, to not go where we were expected. It was great. A fire in winter is warming. Support to all the crusty kids, zadists or not.”



LEARD BLOCKADE continued from page 1

move to Wando, a local farm in Maules Creek. In the last four years over 400 people have been arrested attempting to stop the destruction.

For the sake of brevity, the rest of this article will briefly discuss the multiple actions that have occurred through the first four months of 2016. A more detailed article will appear in the Litha 2016 edition of the *Earth First! Journal*.

According to FLAC's website, the first protest of the year took place on February 14, the day before the planned demolition of 1,200 acres of woodlands. The protest featured a giant banner and a person in a koala outfit, calling attention to the decline and extermination of koalas in the forest (*image above*).

Five days later, thirty folks met up at the gates of Whitehaven's and Idemitsu's Tarrawonga coal mine. Both companies have been fined multiple times for failing to comply with approval conditions. The companies have cleared land outside of the disturbance limits and been in violation of noise pollution ordinances. Signs were waved and the road was temporarily blocked.

On February 21, two women occupied a coal train in Werris Creek. All railments of coal to the Port of Newcastle—the world's busiest coal port—were halted.

Less than a week later, on February 26, Whitehaven began to illegally clear, as they are legally supposed to stop all work when temperatures exceed 35 degrees Celcius (95 degrees Fahrenheit). The animals in the forest are less likely to find cool habitat when temperatures get this high and their homes are destroyed. The next day, activists—not being helped by the authorities—shut down the rail line. In addition, two folks managed to stop a bulldozer from clearing.

On February 29, a member of FLAC halted the trains yet again, while three more people locked themselves to bulldozers in the Whitehaven Coal Maules Creek mine, delaying clearing again.

March started like February ended; on March 2, indigenous folks from the Gamilaraay and Githabul tribes

locked to concrete barrels at the entrance to the mine (*middle image, page 1*). Work was delayed again. In 2014, Gomeroi traditional custodians asked Environmental Minister Greg Hunt to stop work in the area in order to protect the site, which is considered sacred. Hunt's response was that Whitehaven would not begin to clear the area until 2017; obviously untrue.

On the morning of March 5, a forest defender suspended themselves from a rail bridge over the Kamilaroi Highway, which stopped trains headed to two mines (*bottom image, page 1*). The purpose was to draw attention to Lawlers Well, the last site of high significance in the Maules Creek Mine boundary.

On March 8, three women celebrated International Women's Day by locking themselves to trees inside the forest. Gomeroi women gathered on the forest road to show support and solidarity for the action.

On March 13, four students from Australia National University occupied and stopped a coal train.

On March 16, as the government tried to clamp down on Australians' right to protest, the Brisbane Union became involved, sending one of its members to occupy a coal train at Willow Tree.

The train was stopped yet again on March 21 as a locomotive was scaled and occupied, shutting it down for over five-and-a-half hours.

On March 25, a woman lay down across the train tracks, stopping all trains from entering the export terminal at Kooragang Island in Newcastle that day.

Four days later, at Willow Tree in rural New South Wales, a locomotive was stopped by three folks, shutting down the coal production line (*top image, page 1*).

Finally, on April Fools' Day, FLAC was not joking around as one of their members locked on to a coal conveyor.

While all has been seemingly quiet for the past few weeks, don't expect Front Line Action on Coal to be going anywhere any time soon. Keep checking our newswire for updates and find out how you can get involved at FRONTLINEACTION.ORG. 

FROM THE CAGES:

ECO-PRISONERS, SNARED LIBERATIONISTS,
AND HOSTAGES OF THE STRUGGLE

US PRISONERS

ABDUL HAQQ

(Address envelope to "Walter Bond")
#37096-013, FCI Greenville, PO Box 5000, Greenville, IL
62246, USA

Serving 12 years (until 03-21-2021) for the "ALF Lone-wolf" arsons of the Tandy Leather Factory and the Tiburon Restaurant (which sold foie gras) in Utah, along with the Sheepskin Factory in Colorado. SUPPORTWALTER.ORG

Birthday: April 16

MARIUS MASON

(Address envelope to "Marie (Marius) Mason")
#04672-061, FMC Carswell, PO Box 27137, Fort Worth,
TX 76127, USA

Serving 21 years and 10 months (until 09-18-2027) for his involvement in an ELF arson at a university building carrying out genetically modified crop tests. Marius also pleaded guilty to conspiring to carry out ELF actions and admitted involvement in 12 other ELF actions. SUPPORTMARIUSMASON.ORG

Birthday: January 26, 1962

KEVIN OLLIFF

(Address envelope to "Kevin Johnson")
#47353-424, MCC Chicago, 71 West Van Buren Street,
Chicago, IL 60605, USA

Kevin (arrested with Tyler Lang; see entry below) is an animal liberation activist who completed a 30-month sentence for "possession of burglary tools" on October 21, 2014. Kevin pleaded guilty to additional charges under the AETA for releasing 2,000 mink from a fur farm. On February 29, he was sentenced to 36 months, with credit for time served (both state and federal time), as well as three years of supervised release. He is expected to be released in May of 2016. SUPPORTKEVINANDTYLER.COM

Birthday: March 27, 1987

JUSTIN SOLONDZ

#98291-011, FCI Oakdale I, PO Box 5000, Oakdale, LA
71463, USA

Serving 7 years (until 08-31-2017) for a 2001 firebombing of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture.

Birthday: October 3

BRIAN VAILLANCOURT

#M42889, Robinson Correctional, 13423 East 1150th Ave,
Robinson, IL 62454, USA

Arrested in Chicago on February 9, 2013, for an alleged attempted arson at a McDonald's. He accepted a non-cooperating plea agreement in 2014 and is serving a 9-year sentence.

Birthday: September 5, 1964

INTERNATIONAL PRISONERS

DEBBIE VINCENT

A5819DE, HMP SEND, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey
GU23 7LJ, UK

In 2014, Debbie was sentenced to 6 years in prison for "conspiring to blackmail" in relation to the campaign to close down Huntingdon Life Sciences, Europe's largest animal testing corporation.

Birthday: January 12

MARCO CAMENISCH

PF 1, CH – 9466, Salez, Switzerland

Currently serving 8 years (until 05-2018) for the alleged murder of a customs policeman while on the run. This is his latest sentence from a lifelong commitment to ecological resistance. In 1980, Marco was sentenced to 10 years for damaging electricity pylons and transformers from nuclear power stations in Switzerland. He escaped prison in 1981. In 1991, he was sentenced to 12 years for injuring a *carabiniere* during capture and for an attack against power lines that transported energy produced by French nuclear plants.

Birthday: January 21, 1952

ALFREDO COSPITO and NICOLA GAI

Both at: Casa Circondariale Ferrara, Via Arginone 327,
IT- 44122 Ferrara, Italy

Nicola and Alfredo were arrested on September 14, 2012, for shooting Ansaldo Nucleare manager Roberto Adinolfi in the knees—an action carried out by the Olga nucleus of the FAI/FRI (Informal Anarchist Federation) earlier that year. In May of 2015 their sentences were reduced: Alfredo's to 9 years and 5 months (until February 2022), Nicola's to 8 years and 8 months (until May of 2020).

LADISLAV KUC

Ústav Na Výkon Trestu Odnatia Slobody, A ústav na
Výkon Vazby, Mierové Námestie 1, 019 17, ILAVA, Slovakia

Ladislav is an animal rights activist sentenced in 2011 to 25 years for alleged illegal possession of arms, manufacturing of explosives, and terrorism for a bombing in front of a McDonald's. He was caught after almost a year on the run when police tracked down the producer of a timer found at the crime scene and intercepted mail communications between Ladislav and the manufacturer. Ladislav testified that he wanted to attract public attention to the killing of animals. Since there are no prominent animal rights groups in Slovakia or the Czech Republic, Ladislav is especially in need of international support.

Birthday: April 11, 1975

INTERNATIONAL PRISONERS *continued...*

VICTORIA PAVLENKO

(Address unknown, let us know if you find it!)

Victoria was a volunteer at a Russian animal shelter when she was arrested on “theft” charges for saving a stray Labrador from the street and bringing it to the shelter after finding that the number on the dog’s collar was disconnected. She has served over a year and a half for this, and faces between 2 and 5 years for “theft with intent to cause harm.” V-PAVLENKO.RU

ARRESTEES FACING CHARGES

JOSEPH BUDDENBURG and NICOLE KISSANE

Nicole and Joseph were arrested on July 24, 2015, and federally indicted for Conspiracy to Violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act for allegedly releasing thousands of animals from fur farms and destroying breeding records in Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. The indictment also alleges that they caused economic damage to various retail and distribution businesses and individuals associated with the fur industry. They accepted non-cooperating plea agreements and are awaiting sentencing. SUPPORTNICOLEANDJOSEPH.COM

GIANLUCA GAUDENZI

Gianluca is currently facing charges in Sweden for damaging at least 121 hunting towers and spray-painting slogans causing roughly 670,000 SKE (approx. \$78,000) in damages. He reportedly stated, “For me it is not a crime... It is a crime to destroy nature and other species [translation].” The trial was supposed to begin in November of 2015 but seems to have been delayed indefinitely.

NATASHA and SVEN

They are currently awaiting extradition from the Netherlands to the UK for charges that could carry 14 years in prison, as part of the Blackmail 3 case with Debbie Vincent (see above). FREESVENANDNATASHA.ORG

This information is compiled by the joint effort of the EF! Prisoner Support Project and the EF! Journal Collective. A broader list of prisoners from allied struggles, arrestees facing charges, and our handy updated Informant Tracker service can be found at EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG/PRISONERS. To get in touch email EFPRIS@RISEUP.NET or write to EF!PSP, PO Box 163126, Sacramento, CA 95816.



photo by Tyler Lang

RELEASES & OTHER GOOD NEWS

TYLER LANG

Sentenced to time served, 6 months house arrest, 6 months community confinement, 1 year supervised release, and \$200,000 restitution

Arrested with Kevin Olliff (see listing page 10) and originally released on a plea deal since he had no prior criminal history. However, he was reindicted under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act for allegedly releasing mink and foxes from fur farms in the Midwest and has been out on bail. They both signed non-cooperating plea agreements in which they pleaded guilty to a violation of the AETA for freeing 2,000 mink from a fur farm. Tyler is currently accepting donations for support during house arrest, and also for his cat Precious’s hospital and treatment bills. SUPPORTKEVINANDTYLER.COM

REBECCA RUBIN

Released to a halfway house!

Rebecca was serving 5 years (until 04-07-2017) for arson and conspiracy charges stemming from ELF actions that occurred between 1996 and 2001, including the fire that destroyed a ski resort in Vail, Colorado. She was released to a halfway house on April 11, 2016.

Birthday: April 18, 1973

BILLY, COSTA, and SILVIA

Charges in Italy dropped!

Trial for Silvia Guerini, Costantino “Costa” Ragusa, and Luca “Billy” Bernasconi began on January 13, 2016 in Turin, Italy. The three had been previously arrested and jailed for several years in Switzerland, accused of having organized an act of sabotage against a nanotechnology research center of IBM, under construction at the time. On April 15, 2010, they were stopped and arrested by Swiss police who searched their car and allegedly found explosives and leaflets claiming the imminent action under the name “Earth Liberation Front Switzerland.” On March 9, the charges were dropped as it was ruled that they had already been charged for these crimes in Switzerland, and thus couldn’t be charged for them again in Italy.

Eco-Action Group Directory

United States

Civil Liberties Defense Center
CLDC.ORG

Rising Tide North America
RISINGTIDENORTHAMERICA.ORG

TWAC (Trans and/or Women's Action Camp)
TWAC.WORDPRESS.COM

ARIZONA

Black Mesa Indigenous Support
SUPPORTBLACKMESA.ORG

No Más Muertes/No More Deaths
NOMOREDEATHS.ORG

CALIFORNIA

Earth First! Humboldt and Mattole Blockade
CONTACTEFHUM@GMAIL.COM

Santa Barbara Earth First!
FREEAWARNESS@GMAIL.COM
(805) 708-7817

Save Our Little Lake Valley
SAVELITTLELAKEVALLEY.ORG

COLORADO

Southwest Earth First!
SOUTHWESTEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chesapeake Earth First!
CHESAPEAKEEARTHFIRST@RISEUP.NET

FLORIDA

Everglades Earth First!
EVERGLADESEARTHFIRST.NET

GEORGIA

Chattahoochee Earth First!
DIRTYSOUTH_EF@RISEUP.NET

MAINE

Stop the East-West Corridor
STOPTHECORRIDOR.ORG

MARYLAND

Savage Mountain Earth First!
SAVAGEMOUNTAINEP@RISEUP.NET

MICHIGAN

Detroit Coalition Against Tar Sands
D-CATS.ORG

Fen Valley Earth First!
FENVALLEYEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM

Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands
MICHIGANCATS.ORG

MONTANA/IDAHO

Buffalo Field Campaign
BUFFALOFIELDCAMPAIGN.ORG

Seeds of Peace
SEEDSOFPEACECOLLECTIVE.ORG

Wild Idaho Rising Tide
WILDIDAHORISINGTIDE.ORG

NEBRASKA

Earth First! Nebraska
BUFFALOBRUCE1@GMAIL.COM

NEW YORK/PENNSYLVANIA

Hudson Valley Earth First!
HUDSONVALLEYEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM

Rising Tide NYC
RISINGTIDENYC@RISEUP.NET

Marcellus Shale Earth First!
MARCELLUSSHALEEARTHFIRST.ORG

Wetlands Activism Collective
WETLANDS-PRESERVE.ORG

NORTHEAST

FANG (Fighting Against Natural Gas)
FANGTOGETHER.ORG

NORTH CAROLINA

High Country Earth First!
HIGHCOUNTRYEF.WORDPRESS.COM

Katuhah Earth First!
KATUAH@RISEUP.NET

Piedmont Earth First!
PIEDMONTEF@RISEUP.NET

OHIO

Appalachia Resist!
APPALACHIARESIST.WORDPRESS.COM

OKLAHOMA

Great Plains Tar Sands Resistance
GPTARSANDSRESISTANCE.ORG

OKLAHOMA/TEXAS

Cross Timbers Earth First!
CROSSTIMBERSEF.COM

OREGON

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project
27803 Williams Lane, Fossil, OR 97830
(541) 385-9167
BLUEMTNSBIODIVERSITY.WORDPRESS.COM

Coast Range Forest Watch
COASTRANGEFORESTWATCH.ORG

Cascadia Forest Defenders
FORESTDEFENSENOW.COM

Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team
NESTCASCADIA.WORDPRESS.COM

Portland Rising Tide

PORTLANDRISINGTIDE.ORG

Southern Oregon Rising Tide
SORISINGTIDE.ORG

TEXAS

Tar Sands Blockade
TARSANDSBLOCKADE.ORG

UTAH

Canyon Country Rising Tide
CANYONCOUNTRYRISINGTIDE.ORG

Utah Tar Sands Resistance
TARSANDSRESIST.ORG

VERMONT

Green Mountain Earth First!
GMEF@RISEUP.NET

Rising Tide Vermont
RISINGTIDEVERMONT.ORG

WASHINGTON

Seattle Rising Tide
RISINGTIDESEATTLE@RISEUP.NET

WISCONSIN

Madison Infoshop
MADISONINFOSHOP@GMAIL.COM

WEST VIRGINIA

Radical Action for Mountains' and People's Survival
RAMPSCAMPAIGN.ORG

International

AUSTRALIA

Front Line Action on Coal
FRONTLINEACTION.ORG

Rising Tide Australia
RISINGTIDE.ORG.AU

CANADA

Klabona Keepers
FACEBOOK.COM/KLABONAKEEPERS/

Rebel! Rebuild! Rewild!
REBELREBUILDREWILD.NOBLOGS.ORG

Tache d'huile
TACHE-DHUILE.INFO

Unist'ot'en Camp
UNISTOTENCAMP.COM

Vancouver Island Community Forest Action Network
FORESTACTION.WIKIDOT.COM

Wildlife Defence League
WILDLIFEDEFENCELEAGUE.ORG

Clayoquot Action
CLAYOQUOTACTION.ORG

ECUADOR

Rising Tide Ecuador
MAREACRECENTEcuador.WORDPRESS.COM

FINLAND

Finland Rising Tide
HYOKYALTO.NET

Stop Fennovoima
FENNOVOIMA.NO.COM

GERMANY

Hambach Forest Occupation
HAMBACHFOREST.BLOGSPORT.DE

ICELAND

Saving Iceland
SAVINGICELAND.ORG

IRELAND

Earth First! Éire
EARTHFIRSTEIRE@RISEUP.NET

Rossport Solidarity Camp
STRUGGLE.WS/RSC

MEXICO

Green Revolt Collective
FACEBOOK.COM/REVUELTAVERDE

Mexico Rising Tide
MAREA-CRECIENTE.ORG

NETHERLANDS

Earth First! Netherlands
GROENFRONT.NL/ENGLISH

PHILIPPINES

Earth First! Philippines
FACEBOOK.COM/EARTHFIRST.PHILIPPINES

UNITED KINGDOM

Earth First! UK
EARTHFIRST.ORG.UK

Earth First! UK Climbers Guild
CLIMBERSGUILD@EARTHFIRST.ORG.UK

Rising Tide UK
RISINGTIDE.ORG.UK

